

STATUS OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking prescription ~~prescriptive~~ medication, to address and control prescription drug abuse, said method comprising:

providing respective computer connections to a plurality of entities, said plurality of entities comprising a plurality of both affiliated and unaffiliated pharmacies such that affiliated pharmacies maintain their own database of information and unaffiliated pharmacies do not;

obtaining and storing pharmaceutical data related to prescription medication purchases by a plurality of purchasers from said plurality of affiliated and unaffiliated pharmacies;

~~storing pharmaceutical data in a general purpose computer related to prescriptive medication purchases obtained by a plurality of prescriptive medication purchasers from said plurality of affiliated and unaffiliated pharmacies; and~~

selectively transferring said pharmaceutical ~~computer~~ data through said computer connections to at least one of said plurality of entities for obtaining a complete prescription ~~prescriptive~~ history of a selected purchaser of prescription ~~prescriptive~~ medication, ~~purchaser for~~ the complete prescription history comprising all prescription ~~prescriptive~~ medications purchased in the aggregate by said selected prescription ~~prescriptive~~ medication purchaser from all of said plurality of affiliated and unaffiliated pharmacies based on said transferred pharmaceutical computer data; and

generating from said complete prescription ~~prescriptive~~ history of said selected purchaser one or more ~~electronic~~ patterns defined by the pharmaceutical data associated with the selected purchaser which patterns empower the identification of ~~[[flag]]~~ prescriptive drug abuse and the control thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing that said at least one of said plurality of entities comprises a physician's office and said selected prescriptive medication purchaser is a patient of said physician; and

said physician's office utilizing said pharmaceutical computer data to verify said prescriptive history of said selected prescriptive medication purchaser.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing that said at least one of said plurality of entities comprises a pharmacy with a pharmacist;

said selected prescriptive medication purchaser requesting that said pharmacist fill a new prescriptive medication; and

said pharmacist utilizing said pharmaceutical computer data to compare said new prescriptive medication with respect to said prescriptive history of said selected prescriptive medication purchaser.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

said pharmacist accepting or declining to fill said new prescriptive medication based on said prescriptive history.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing that at least one of said plurality of entities comprises a hospital and said selected prescriptive medication purchaser is a patient of said hospital; and

said hospital utilizing said pharmaceutical computer data to determine said prescriptive history of said selected prescriptive medication purchaser.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing that said pharmaceutical computer data for each of said prescriptive medication purchases comprises a name of a respective prescriptive medication purchaser, an address of said respective prescriptive medication purchaser, a drug prescribed, said respective prescriptive medication purchaser, a quantity of said drug, a dosage of said drug, a pharmacist name, and a doctor name.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

searching said stored pharmaceutical computer data based on one or more of said name of a respective prescriptive medication purchaser, said address of said respective prescriptive medication purchaser, said drug prescribed, said respective prescriptive medication purchaser, said quantity of said drug, said dosage of said drug, said pharmacist name, and said doctor name.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

storing pharmaceutical data related to whether a request for filling a prescriptive medication is filled or declined.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

providing that at least one of said plurality of entities comprises a government agency.

11-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking prescriptive medications, to address and control prescription drug abuse, said method comprising:

providing respective computer connections to a plurality of entities, said plurality of entities being a group consisting essentially of a plurality of hospitals, a plurality of doctors, [[and]] at least one government agency, or combinations thereof;

obtaining and storing pharmaceutical computer data in a general purpose computer relating to prescriptive medication purchases ~~obtained~~ by a plurality of prescriptive medication purchasers from a plurality of pharmacies;

selectively transferring said pharmaceutical computer data through said computer connections to at least one of said plurality of entities for obtaining a complete prescriptive history of a selected prescriptive medication purchaser, the complete prescriptive history comprising ~~[[for]]~~ all prescriptive medications purchased in the aggregate by said selected prescriptive medication purchaser from all of said plurality of pharmacies based on said transferred pharmaceutical computer data; and

generating from said complete prescription history of said selected purchaser one or more ~~electronic~~ patterns which flag prescriptive drug abuse.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the one or more ~~electronic~~ patterns generated from the prescription history indicate prescription duplication, ~~[[or]]~~ multi-source prescription abuse, or combinations thereof.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more ~~electronic~~ patterns generated from the prescription history indicate prescription duplication, ~~[[or]]~~ multi-source prescription abuse, or combinations thereof.